

**OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Location: Mindy K's Restaurant, Old Saybrook, CT

Date: February 6, 2024, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Jay Costello, Tara Gustafson, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Terence McGrath, Dave Pettinicchi (by phone), Ed Rajotte, and Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Don Carver, Michael Cohen, Donna Henry, Dave Hopkins Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Lew Perry, Robert Polito, and Sally Pritchard

Guest: Doug McCracken

**AGENDA ITEMS**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The previous Old Saybrook Coast Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes; motion seconded and motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary reminded members to follow up meeting discussion points with an email to ensure their accurate inclusion in the meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Bank transactions during the past month included the deposit of two association (Chalker Beach and Great Hammock Beach) donations.

The 2024 bank deposits and expenses to date are as follows:

Deposits: \$500

Expenses: None

The current OSCRC balance as of January 31, 2024 is \$1,169.50.

Treasurer received two checks of \$250 for donations from Indian Town and District of Fenwood. The checks have not been deposited in the OSCRC bank account.

Treasurer distributed contribution forms to Chalker Beach, Great Hammock Beach, Indian Town, and District of Fenwood for received donations.

Treasurer reminded Board members that a 2024 donation of \$250 from their association is due this year. Mail check to Ed Rajotte or bring it to a future meeting.

Vice Chair's Report: No report given.

### Chair's Report:

1. 2023 federal and state reports and account information, are due in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2024.
2. A motion was made and approved to add residents of Bel Aire Manor and Summerwood Condos to the OSCRC Board of Directors. Rick Bovino will be the primary board member with Beth Chotkowski being the alternate for Bel Aire Manor. Connie Hughes will be the primary board member while Tara Gustafson will be the alternate for Summerwood Condos. They will serve two-year terms.
3. Joe reminded the Board that members are to serve two-year terms. The period for a term is January 1 through December 31. According to the OSCRC bylaws, the two-year terms of Board members need to be staggered so that half the members are elected in a given year. This staggering of terms will be reconciled during the January, 2025 election of Board members. Joe also reminded the Board that a member can be an officer for three consecutive two-year terms (six years total).

### Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook (4 Shore Resilience) grant. There are no upcoming events (<https://www.4shoreresiency.com>). Doug McCracken gave an update on an internal meeting of the 4-Shore Resilience Committee. He mentioned the recent studies shared in the meeting indicated a sea level rise of 0.85 feet by 2050 and 1.64 ft by 2070.
2. Chalker Beach representatives reported that public meetings on the Whole Foods application to build in Old Saybrook have ended and the next steps are in the hands of the Town of Old Saybrook authorities.
3. OSCRC volunteer team reports:
  - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi) – Dave discussed nine points to consider when creating public literature. These nine points are included as an appendix to these minutes. Dave also mentioned that his daughter, who is a graphic designer, is willing, without compensation, to help develop the layout for OSCRC literature.
  - Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo) - A proposal entitled “A Beach Nourishment Strategy for Old Saybrook Beach Communities: A Proposal to LISFF” was submitted on February 1, 2024 for the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund 2024 sponsored by the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative. The proposal was a modification of Chalker Beach study on beach nourishment. Joe will email everyone a copy of the LISFF proposal after the meeting.
  - Donations (need leader) – No report.
4. Ed Rajotte gave an update on correspondence with government agencies concerning project funding for the Fenwood seawall. A Zoom meeting has been scheduled in the coming weeks with state representative Martha Marx.
5. A proposal was discussed to give, on average, one presentation a month during 2024 in order to satisfy the education part of OSCRC climate change mission. Joe has volunteered to give a 15-minute climate change presentation plus 15 minutes for questions. He suggested

using the media room at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook. Let Joe know if you wish to schedule a presentation for your association.

#### New Business:

1. Connie Hughes discussed the list of potential grants, which were shared with the Board prior to this meeting. She pointed out that some Connecticut organizations offer assistance for grant writing. Connie suggested we could have representatives from organizations sponsoring grants come and speak to us.

#### Additional Items:

1. A Board member requested a list of contractors who have built boat ramps and seawalls for beach associations. One suggested contractor was Kevin Braza of Old Saybrook. Please send other suggestions for contractors to Marie Cerino.

Thanks to Joanne Breen for contributing notes for the meeting minutes.

Thanks again to Rick Bovino for hosting and providing snacks for the meeting.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

#### APPENDIX

Nine points to consider when creating OSCRC literature.

1. Exactly what are we trying to communicate? Are we explaining what we do, what we want to do, how people can get involved?
2. What is the basic content, beyond what is already on our website?
3. Who is the target audience for this literature? OS residents? Government officials? Environmentalists? Potential donors? All of the above? If "all of the above", we may need to customize some of the output for particular groups.
4. How are we advertising this? Electronic, paper, or both?
5. Are we looking to do mass mailings of literature (if so, electronically I hope)?
6. Is the plan to advertise in newspapers, periodicals, etc.?
7. Do we need to delineate ourselves from 4Shore (people are already asking if we are doing the same thing as they are...perception)?
8. Are we doing posters, etc. for shop windows? Are we going to represent ourselves at town events (booths, pamphlets, giveaways, etc.)?
9. Let's see if other board members have any ideas.